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FLOOR DEBATE

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mandate in there to spend 60 percent of the general fund on classroom instruction, and it narrowly defined "classroom instruction," not even to include the building principal, which often is included in the data today, because LB 1167 was about putting the most dollars to work for the benefit of children. It wasn't about boundaries and who was right and who was wrong. In fact, LB 1167 allowed a committee to come up with a proposal, a committee of superintendents, to come up with a proposal. In fact, it forced them to work together to come up with a proposal for where the boundaries should be in the metropolitan area. There are some insane boundaries right now. I have a little corner of OPS that it is closer for the kids to attend Westside High or Millard High School than it is to go to Burke. I have a portion of Millard Public Schools that the kids can go to Ralston High much easier, much faster, much closer than going to Millard South. We need to look at those things. But, you know, boundaries aren't the issue. Education in the classroom is the issue we're talking about. And LB 1024 provides a framework where we can all work together for the first time in the city of Omaha and all of the surrounding areas to face the quality of education in the classroom for every child. I am not offended when someone wants to run for a school board and they want to be involved in their local school. I am not offended when they want self-determination. Who am I to tell...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR REDFIELD: ...someone that they should not have that choice? Who are we to stand here and tell Senator Chambers what's best for his district? I think we should listen. Senator Chambers wrote a brief that really impacted my thinking on LB 1167 talking about the political power that was nonexistent for minorities until they had district elections. But even with district elections, I want you to look at the OPS School Board and see if in fact it represents the minority distribution of the student body. If you want to empower minorities, you need to get them in places of leadership, in places where they can make decisions, where they can take responsibility. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Kruse,